



COMPLIANCE COMPONENT

DEFINITION	
<i>Name</i>	Server-Side Includes
<i>Description</i>	Server-Side Includes (SSI) is a directive that is placed in Web pages, and evaluated on the Web server while the pages are being served. SSI documents can contain Common Gateway Interface (CGI) scripts, HTML code or other program languages. They let you dynamically generate content for an existing Web page, without having to serve the entire page via a CGI program, or other dynamic technology.
<i>Rationale</i>	By using SSI, you can break your site into a series of usable components, so a change to one file is reflected on every page of your site.
<i>Benefits</i>	Server-Side Includes provide the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simplify site maintenance; ➤ Display special or environment variables, such as current time or date; ➤ Execute CGI or other external programs; ➤ Include common header, menu and footer components for the Web site; and ➤ Properly configured host servers and implemented Server-Side Includes should NOT create a security problem and can save development time.
ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURE LEVELS	
<i>Specify the Domain Name</i>	Interface
<i>Specify the Discipline Name</i>	Branding
<i>Specify the Technology Area Name</i>	Common Elements
<i>Specify the Product Component Name</i>	
COMPLIANCE COMPONENT TYPE	
<i>Document the Compliance Component Type</i>	Guideline
<i>Component Sub-type</i>	

COMPLIANCE DETAIL	
<i>State the Guideline, Standard or Legislation</i>	<p>To permit SSI on a server, special configurations and files are often required to be installed and enabled before the SSI will function properly. The decision of when to use SSI, and when to have your page entirely generated by some programs, is usually a matter of how much of the page is static, and how much needs to be recalculated every time the page is served. SSI is a great way to add small pieces of information, such as current time or the date of when a page was modified. But if a majority of your page is being generated at the time it is being processed from the server, you need to look for another solution because it increases the parsing required.</p> <p>The key to simplifying maintenance of SSI is to keep them within a single directory instead of multiple directories/locations. Using the virtual path from the server root is the best solution for correcting difficulties when calling SSI into a Web page.</p>

However, relative paths to the current directory can be used; it can **NOT** be the URL such as `http://www.mo.gov/ssi/header.inc`. File extensions for the HTML-encoded SSI should be `.htm` or `.inc`. It can be `.txt`, if ASCII or plain text is to be parsed. If the SSI document is a script, the appropriate script extension is required – such as `.cgi` (CGI), `.pl` (PERL), or `.js` (JavaScript) or other similar type.

Consider using a SSI when a high-level authority's name is important to display across multiple pages and could result in being changed periodically. Maintenance of constantly changing information across multiple Web pages is a good candidate for consideration.

SSI Directives

Command (Parameter) – Description

`echo (var)` – Inserts a value of special SSI or environment variables

`include` – Inserts text of document into current file

`file` – Pathname relative to current directory

`virtual` – Virtual path to a document on a server

`fsize (file)` – Inserts the size of a specified file

`flastmod (file)` – Inserts the last modification date and time for a specified file

`exec` – Executes external programs and inserts output in current document

`cmd` – Any application on the host.

`cgi` – CGI program

`config` – Modifies various aspects of SSI

`errmsg` – Default error message

`sizefmt` – Format for size of the file

`timefmt` – Format for dates

To display the current date and time within a Web page, use:

```
<!--#echo var="DATE_LOCAL" -->
```

To modify the time format, use the following:

```
<!--#config timefmt="%D %f" -->
```

To display the last modification date for a file, use:

```
<!--#echo flastmod file="document.htm" -->
```

(Note: Content updating should be considered before this directive is applied globally, i.e., content requiring statute driven information and their associated origin/revision dates.)

To include a common header, menu or footer, use at the appropriate corresponding location in a HTML document:

```
<!--#include virtual="/path/header.inc" -->
```

To configure an error message to replace the default message, use:

```
<!--#config errmsg="[It appears you have encountered an error! Please...]" -->
```

OR

```
<!--#config errmsg="Error, contact Webmaster@mo.gov" -->.
```

Conditional expressions

```
<!--#if expr="test_condition" -->
```

```
<!--#elseif expr="test_condition" -->
```

```
<!--#else -->
```

```
<!--#endif -->
```

SSI sounds like a great feature, but it does have its disadvantages. First, it can be quite costly for a server to continually parse documents before sending them to the client. And second, enabling SSI creates a security risk. Novice users could possibly embed directives to execute system commands that output confidential

	information. Despite these shortcomings, SSI can be a very powerful tool if used cautiously.		
Document Source Reference #			
Compliance Sources			
Name	Apache HTTP Server v1.3	Website	http://httpd.apache.org/docs/1.3/howto/ssi.html
Contact Information			
Name	DMD Guidelines	Website	http://oa.mo.gov/dmd/guidelines/#Toc21509684
Contact Information	Erica Gage, Kirk Keller, Kevin Lanahan		
KEYWORDS			
List Keywords	Server-Side Includes, SSI, includes, include, standard footer, standard header, standard menu, last modified, current time, current date, directives, error messages, error		
COMPONENT CLASSIFICATION			
Provide the Classification	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Twilight <input type="checkbox"/> Sunset		
Sunset Date			
COMPONENT SUB-CLASSIFICATION			
Sub-Classification	Date	Additional Sub-Classification Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Technology Watch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Variance			
<input type="checkbox"/> Conditional Use			
Rationale for Component Classification			
Document the Rationale for Component Classification			
Migration Strategy			
Document the Migration Strategy			
Impact Position Statement			
Document the Position Statement on Impact			
CURRENT STATUS			
Provide the Current Status	<input type="checkbox"/> In Development <input type="checkbox"/> Under Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected		
AUDIT TRAIL			
Creation Date	08/22/05	Date Approved / Rejected	9/27/05
Reason for Rejection			
Last Date Reviewed		Last Date Updated	
Reason for Update			

